

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY

SECRET

To: The Acting Secretary  
Through: S/S  
From: G - Robert Murphy  
Subject: Memorandum for President on NATO Exercises

Attached is the memorandum on the forthcoming NATO exercises which you asked to have prepared for the President.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum. /S/ CHRISTIAN A. HERTER  
FEB 20 1959

Concurrences:

EUR - Mr. Merchant  
LJW

RA - Mr. Timmons

CSD/ISA - Capt. McDonald (in substance)  
JFK PERKA

Attachment:

Memorandum for President.

File EUR:RA: L.W. J. Junior  
4/10/61

EUR:RA

EUR:RA:JYMillar:bpw  
2/18/59

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FEB 20 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**Subject: Extensive NATO Exercise in  
mid-April.**

Summarized in the enclosure, for your information, are the plans for a NATO exercise, tentatively, to be conducted throughout Western Europe in mid-April. The dates (April 13-17) were selected well before the Berlin crisis began, but I think this exercise is well-timed from the political point of view, and should have a salutary effect on the Western European public and on the other side.

/S/ CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Acting Secretary

**Enclosure:**

**Extensive NATO Exercise in  
mid-April.**

S/S-RO

FEB 20 1959

A TRUE COPY OF  
SIGNED ORIGINAL

AKK:AA:JYMillar:adm  
2/18/59

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by <i>epk</i>	NND 887424
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Extensive NATO Exercise in mid-April.

1. Nature of the Exercise. This is a combined joint atomic and air defense exercise. It is designed to practice SACCOM's atomic strike plan under simulated wartime conditions and to exercise the over-all air defense system of Allied Command Europe. Air and ground units, including atomic delivery and air defense forces, will participate on a "live" basis, actually flying missions and deploying. There will be considerable activity in the air and on the ground, and the public will be well advised of the exercise.

The Sixth Fleet and SAC are to provide "background" aircraft.

2. Area and Duration. The exercise will take place all over Allied Command Europe for a period of 10 hours some time between April 13 and 17.

3. Mediterranean and Southern Region Air Defense Exercises.

Coincident with TOP WINTER, Allied forces in the Mediterranean will conduct an exercise (SOUTHERN DEFENSE) ranging from Portugal to 43° N in the Black Sea.

At the same time an extensive "live" air defense exercise (SOUTHERN DEFENSE) will take place in the Southern Region.

4. Publicity. SACCOM has been proceeding on the basis that the projected exercises should be given publicity well in advance, beginning about March 1, to insure that the nature of the exercises is understood by the public. We have advised General Horstad's political adviser that we fully agree with the policy of having advance extensive publicity.

5. Notification to NATO Countries. Notification of the exercise was conveyed through NATO military channels some months ago to Secretary-General Spahn and all NATO defense Ministers.

EUR:RA:JYMiller:adm  
2/19/59

EUR - Mr. Merchant  
RA - Mr. Timmons

SECRET

Authority	NND 837424
By	EJK
NARA Date	2/14/90